

Monday, December 1, 2008

Annual Tree Lighting at Courthouse Square Will Coincide With Christmas Parade on Friday, December 5th

Over 3,500 colored lights will illuminate this year's Christmas tree, which will be lit by Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and his family during the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Friday at 6 p.m. For the first time, the lighting ceremony will take place on the same night as the [Nashville Christmas Parade](#), offering residents and visitors a full night of free holiday entertainment in downtown Nashville.

"The tree lighting and the Christmas Parade are two great Nashville traditions that kick off the holiday season each year. I encourage all Nashvillians and their families to join me downtown for a night of music, lights, fireworks and floats," Dean said.

The parade is hosted by Piedmont Natural Gas and starts at 7 p.m. at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Broadway with a ribbon cutting and fireworks. The parade will travel east on Broadway and then up Second Avenue, passing the city's Christmas tree before heading over the Woodland Street Bridge to LP Field.

Street closings for both events, as well as the annual Rudolf's Red Nose Run which precedes the parade, are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Entertainment at the tree lighting ceremony will include American Idol Finalist and recording artist Phil Stacey, who is also this year's Nashville Christmas Parade Grand Marshal. A quartet from the Barbershop Harmony Society will sing "The Chipmunk Song," among other holiday classics.